

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Mayor Healy & JCIA Announce Hiring of 20 Former Ready, Willing & Able Employees City to Apply for Second Chance Prisoner Re-Entry Program Funding through the Federal Economic Stimulus Program***

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, members of the Municipal Council, the Jersey City Incinerator Authority (JCIA), and the Jersey City Economic Development Corporation will announce at an **11:30 a.m. press conference** on **Tuesday, April 21, 2009**, at the **HUB, 360 Martin Luther King Drive**, that **20 former employees of the Ready, Willing & Able** program have been hired to perform street maintenance work for the city through the Incinerator Authority.

“In Jersey City we are committed to providing second chance programs for our residents who are working to get their lives back on the right path and become productive members of our community,” said **Mayor Healy**. “This is something we believe serves as a great service to the city as well as for the individuals involved, and can also be a crime prevention tool. We have seen great success with this program, and wanted to keep the services provided by Ready, Willing & Able alive.”

In addition to these **20 former Ready, Willing and Able employees**, the JCIA has hired **22 street cleaners**, all of whom will be paid **\$8.00 an hour** and will clean sidewalks, curb lines and gutters, as well as clearing weeds, leaves and other litter from city sidewalks. They will work in our Urban Enterprise Zone areas as the funding is allocated from the UEZ, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., seven days a week.

For the past three years, the UEZ has allocated **\$1 million** in funding for a street maintenance program for Second Chance individuals through Ready, Willing & Able. Prior to that, the UEZ contracted with the JCIA directly for three years to perform the same services for Jersey City residents in a second chance program.

Mayor Healy is also pleased to announce that the city is partnering with the Urban League of Hudson County, Mothers and Daughters-N-Touch Ministry, C-Line, and Friends of Lifers Youth Community Organization for a \$375,000 grant to operate a full-service second chance prisoner re-entry program in Jersey City through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009.

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“Not only is it important for second chance individuals to receive gainful employment, but that they receive the full-scope of social services including housing, mentoring and job training,” said **Mayor Healy**.

In addition to the former Ready, Willing & Able employees hired by the JCIA, the agency also currently employs **23 men and women through its “Shape Up” Program**. This program began in 2001, and since its inception, has resulted in **27 individuals gaining full-time**, unionized employment through the JCIA. All employees are trained on various types of large and mid-size equipment such as bulldozers, roll-off trucks, excavators, mechanical street sweepers, tractor trailers, and dump trucks, in addition to extensive classroom and road training to obtain their commercial drivers license (“CDL”) which qualifies the second chance employees to operate the aforementioned equipment.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.**

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